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NOTES AND BRIEF ARTICLES

Dr. Heinrich Rehm, of Munich, the world's greatest authority on Ascomycetes, died on April 1 in his eighty-eighth year.

In the Punjab hills in India, where the practice of lopping is prevalent, a serious outbreak of *Trametes Pini* has occurred which is causing severe loss in the case of *Pinus excelsa* in particular. More resistant species are recommended, as well as mixed plantings.

In the February number of the *Journal of Agricultural Research*, H. S. Jackson reports the presence of an Asiatic species of *Gymnosporangium*, *G. koreaense*, in Oregon. The telial stage occurs on *Juniperus chinensis* and the pycnia and aecia on various Pomaceae.

Professor George M. Reed, of the department of botany of the University of Missouri, has been appointed research fellow at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden for the summers of 1916 and 1917, in place of Professor W. H. Rankin, of Cornell University, who has undertaken an investigation of the white-pine blister rust in New York State. The problem to be investigated is the diseases of trees and shrubs of Prospect Park.

Forest pathology in forest regulation is discussed by E. P. Meinecke in Bulletin 275 of the Bureau of Plant Industry at Washington, with the white fir as the chief example. The author is now at work upon the pathology of other important western timber trees.

Professor H. H. Whetzel, of Cornell University, spent May 5-13 at the Garden working over the large and important collection of rusts and other parasitic fungi obtained by him and Dr. Olive in Porto Rico during the past winter. Professor Arthur

paid the Garden a flying visit to examine some of the rusts in this collection.

Dr. Arthur Harmount Graves, formerly Assistant Professor of Botany in the Sheffield Scientific School of Yale University, and Instructor in Forest Botany in the Yale Forest School, has been appointed Associate Professor of Biology in the new Connecticut College for Women, at New London, Connecticut. Dr. Graves will have charge of the instruction in botany, beginning work next September.

A disfiguring and rotting disease of mangoes caused by *Bacillus Mangiferae* is described as having appeared in South Africa in recent years. The infection is carried partly by water dripping from affected portions of the plant, but a more important carrier is found in air movements. Lignified tissues are not affected, but the organism invades parenchymatous tissues, wedging apart and killing the cells and causing dark, angular spots on the leaves. Other soft portions of the plant are also attacked. Sprays seem to have no effect.

Dr. Thomas J. Burrill, who has been connected with the University of Illinois since 1868, died April 14, in his seventy-eighth year. He was born in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, and, after being graduated from the Illinois State Normal University in 1865, later received honorary degrees from Northwestern University and the University of Chicago. Dr. Burrill was formerly professor of natural history, botany, and horticulture at the University of Illinois, from which he retired as professor emeritus in 1912. For many years he was vice-president, and for four years acting president of the University of Illinois.

The Prickly-Pear Traveling Commission of Australia came to the conclusion that disease does not play any important part anywhere in checking the growth of prickly pear when growing under normal conditions. Only one organism, *Gloeosporium lunatum*, is regarded as of sufficient value to warrant its introduction. This is common in Texas and on warm, moist days causes rapid

and considerable destruction of young segments and of older joints if previously attacked. Another fungus, *Sclerotium Opuntiarum*, causes a disease which is somewhat serious in Argentina.

Bulletin 371 of the New York Agricultural Experiment Station contains a description of the cause and control of the leaf blotch of horse chestnut. The disease causes the leaves to turn brown and die. It is so destructive to young seedlings that it is difficult to grow the trees from seeds and consequently most of the trees are imported, adding greatly to the expense. The disease is caused by the fungus known as *Guignardia Aesculi*. The destruction of the old leaves will do much to retard the fungus, although this is not sufficient to check it entirely. Dusting with a mixture of sulfur and arsenate of lead is a very effective means of controlling the fungus, the dusting being considered preferable to treatment with liquid spray.

"Edible and Poisonous Mushrooms," by W. A. Murrill, appeared June 26, 1916. This work consists of a large colored chart and a handbook containing descriptions of the chief edible and poisonous species in North America, together with a discussion of edible and poisonous fungi in general and methods of preparing and cooking mushrooms. The treatment is brief, requiring only about seventy-five pages, but it covers the ground in a practical and safe way and will enable the intelligent mushroom-loving public to enjoy many of our native wild species without fear of unpleasant consequences. The author has erred rather on the side of safety, failing to figure and recommend for food the royal agaric, the blushing amanita, the sheathed amanitopsis, and many other species which are excellent and often eaten.

The chart was prepared under the author's direction by a very careful artist and is suitable for hanging on the wall in libraries and schools, as well as in botanical museums. Different backgrounds are used for the edible and poisonous species, which are separated and plainly labeled so that no mistakes can occur. The maximum of safety lies in accurate figures and descriptions not only of species that may be safely eaten but also of all the dangerous species that should be avoided.

Professor A. H. R. Buller in his article on "The Fungus Lore of the Greeks and Romans," reprinted from the *Transactions of the British Mycological Society*, recalls and discusses a number of very interesting matters connected with edible and poisonous fungi and the dawn of mycology proper. For example, the first known illustration of a fungus is said to be one of *Lactarius deliciosus*, preserved in a mural decoration at Pompeii; the *Boletus* of Pliny and other Latin authors was really *Amanita Caesarea*; the Romans obtained fire by rubbing two pieces of wood together and lighting tinder obtained from *Fomes fomentarius*; and the stone fungi of the ancients were probably simple corals with radiating plates resembling mushroom gills.

After discussing at some length the fungi known to the ancients, the author concludes, as follows: "We have now come to an end of this first chapter in the history of Mycology. We have seen that the Greeks and Romans were familiar with a good many kinds of edible and poisonous fungi, that the Romans in particular developed elaborate recipes for cooking the most desirable species, that means were taken for dealing with cases of accidental poisoning, and that certain fungi had been discovered to possess medicinal properties. On the other hand, so far as the origin and mode of reproduction of fungi are concerned, the ancients were in complete ignorance. In general, they were contented to accept a theory of spontaneous generation, and they never even suspected that fungus fruit-bodies are simply reproductive organs. The spore dust, except doubtless in the Puffballs, appears to have entirely escaped observation."

A KNOWN SPECIES OF SMUT ON A NEW HOST¹

In March, 1916, Mr. Paul C. Standley collected at Fort Myers, Florida, a smut on *Cyperus Gatesii* Torr., which produces similar symptoms and has the same mycological characters as *Cintractia leucoderma* (Berk.) P. Henn. The smut just mentioned has been described as attacking several species of *Rynchospora* and has been collected in Florida on at least two of these. It is to be noted that *Rynchospora* is a genus of the Cyperaceae and therefore related closely to *Cyperus*.

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According to Clinton² the sori of this fungus surround peduncles, pedicels, bases of rachises, and sometimes stems. On *Cyperus*, however, the sori are mostly found surrounding portions of the stems and sometimes running up on the leaf sheaths. They measure 1 to 4 cm. in length and when young are covered with a white fungal membrane which flakes away at maturity and reveals a dark agglutinated spore mass. The spores are dark-brown and verruculose, and have the form of spheres which have been compressed or concaved on one side; they thus appear to be spherical, subspherical, reniform, or irregular, depending on the side from which they are seen. Their larger diameter measures 16 to 20 microns and the compressed diameter 8 to 12 microns. These characters agree with those given by Clinton for *Cintractia leucoderma*.

H. R. ROSEN.

² North Am. Fl. 7: 35-36. 1906.